

REMARKS

Claim 49 is pending. Claims 1-48 are cancelled. New claim 49 has been presented to more clearly define the claimed invention.

Claims 34 and 48 have been objected to. Claims 34 and 37-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Abramovici. Claims 43-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Abramovici in view of Mansingh or "well known practices in the art."

These objection and rejections are deemed moot because claims 34 and 37-48 are cancelled.

New claim 49 has been formulated to more clearly define the claimed invention. In particular, claim 49 recites a processing device comprising:

a reconfigurable circuit consisted of N stages, where $N > 1$, each of the stages having a plurality of arithmetic logic units,

an internal state holding circuit located between the stages, and

a control portion controlling setting data so that setting data A and B are successively supplied to the reconfigurable circuit to configure an intended circuit, the data A and B being divided to units A1, A2, ... and B1, B2, ..., respectively; wherein

when the unit A1 is set to an M th stage at one time point, where $N > M > 1$,

the control portion sets the unit A2 to a $(M+1)$ th stage, sets the unit B1 to the M th stage, and sets output data of the unit A1 to the $(M+1)$ th stage at a next time point, and

when the unit A1 is set to an N th stage at one time point,

the control portion sets the unit A2 to the first stage, sets the unit B1 to the N th stage, and sets the output data of the unit A1 to the first stage.

For example, the reconfigurable circuit is shown in FIG. 3, the internal state holding circuit is shown in FIG. 27, the claimed operations of the control portion are illustrated in FIGS. 3, 16 and 30.

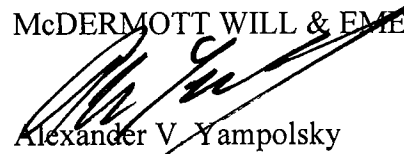
The prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed arrangement. In particular, Abramovici does not teach or suggest supplying the output data of the last stage to the input of the first stage in the reconfigurable circuit defined in the manner recited in claim 49.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claim 49 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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